

HB 2153 Bock

- DIGEST: This bill adds Comal County to the list of counties having veto power over proclamations of the Parks and Wildlife Commission regulating hunting and fishing. Parks and Wildlife proclamations will not be effective in Comal County unless approved by the county commissioners court. If the commissioners court disapproves a proclamation, the taking of wildlife in the county will be governed either by general law or by proclamations of the previous year.
- REASONS FOR VETO: Statewide laws should either be applicable to all or applicable to none. It is better for them to be applicable to all. The Legislature should repeal the veto power now held by some counties. The state should regulate the taking of wildlife in Texas.
- REACTION: More than 20 counties in Texas now have similar statutes. This issue is most appropriately dealt with at the local level. The sponsor is "a very strong advocate of leaving as much local control over government as possible."
- COMMENTARY: On May 15 the Legislature voted to override the Governor's veto of HB 2153. This was the first time since 1941 that the Legislature has passed a bill over a veto. The vote on passage of HB 2153 was 130-0 in the House and unanimous in the Senate. The vote to override was 90-42 in the House and 25-6 in the Senate.

HB 2165 Hernandez

- DIGEST: This bill would allow the county or justice's court in a county of over 500,000 population to order the detention of a child for violation of truancy laws. Detention would not exceed one day, or, if the truancy is habitual, three days.
- REASONS FOR VETO: The bill conflicts with the federal Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act. Its passage would make Texas ineligible for the receipt of federal funds under the Act.
- REACTION: Teachers were very interested in getting this bill passed. Representative Hernandez was not aware of any conflict that this bill would have with federal law. His staff is checking to see if there is indeed a conflict.

HB 2167 Whitehead

- DIGEST: This bill amends the Parks and Wildlife Code to exempt Houston County from the Uniform Wildlife Regulatory Act.
- REASONS FOR VETO: If we continue to remove counties from the Uniform Wildlife Act, then before long there will be no "uniform" act. This bill is even more severe than HB 2153, the Comal County bill.
- REACTION: The sponsor is "very unhappy" with the veto. If the Legislature

HB 2167 continued

wants to exempt some counties, that's the way it should be. It's not fair to single out some counties for a gubernatorial veto while others are exempted. This veto discriminates against the people of Houston County. They should be able to make their own decision.

This is a purely local matter. The Governor wants to "get Big Brother involved." The sponsor prefers general law because it is more compatible with his "fundamental philosophy of grass roots government." His present plan is to reintroduce the bill early enough in the next session to override a veto if necessary, if the bill is desired by the people of Houston County.

HB 2186 Rains

DIGEST: This bill allows the Commissioners Court of Hays County to approve the hunting and fishing regulations issued by the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

REASONS FOR VETO: Texas should have uniform wildlife regulations throughout the state. Counties should not be allowed to opt in and out of certain provisions. The Parks and Wildlife Commission has specialists such as biologists that county commissioners do not have.

REACTION: Representative Rains was not surprised by the veto. The Governor believes no county should be exempt from the regulations of the Parks and Wildlife Commission.

HB 2199 Benedict

DIGEST: This bill allowed the killing of racoons in Brazoria County only to protect livestock, poultry, and property and during open season from November 1 to December 31.

REASONS FOR VETO: This bill would have allowed open season for racoons in Brazoria County to be one month before the season opens in surrounding counties. This would encourage racoons to be killed in other counties and brought to Brazoria County. The Parks and Wildlife Commission opposed this bill.

REACTION: Representative Benedict was "puzzled" by the statement in the proclamation that the Parks and Wildlife Commission was opposed to this bill. Parks and Wildlife had never expressed any problems with this legislation. The Governor would like uniform regulations around the state but this is impossible when some areas of the state are hunted more than others. This bill was an attempt to preserve the racoons in Brazoria, which are being killed off because their pelts are selling for \$25.00 each.